

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGADE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 106

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS SECRETARY PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP (ZABLOCKI, CLEMENT)
SUBJECT: CODEL ZABLOCKI'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT BEN GURION
AIRPORT SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1978.

1. AFTER INTRODUCING HIS PARTY TO THE PRESS, CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI BEGAN HIS ARRIVAL REMARKS AS FOLLOWS:
2. SINCE DEPARTING WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 2, THIS STUDY MISSION OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS VISITED TUNISIA, SYRIA, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN AND IRAN. IN EACH OF THOSE COUNTRIES WE HAVE MET WITH LEADERS AND HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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3. THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY MISSION HAS BEEN TO REVIEW U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, TO EXPLORE U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAMS.
4. WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH THE PROPECTS FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. AS A RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DRAW A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS:

6. FIRST, THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF ALL THE COUNTRIES WE HAVE VISITED WANT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT PEACE WILL NOT COME EASILY. ABOVE ALL, IT IS CLEAR THAT EVERYONE ASSERTS NOW IS THE TIME, I REPEAT NOW IS THE TIME, FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SADAT FAILS, IT MAY BE ANOTHER 30 YEARS OR MORE BEFORE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF. PRESIDENT SADAT CREATED THE CONDITIONS, NOW IT IS UP TO THE ISRAELIS TO RESPOND IN KIND IF THE MOMENTUM IS TO CONTINUE.

7. SECONDLY, TO BE WORKABLE, THE VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS HAVE STATED, ANY PEACE AGREEMENT MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE. IN ADDITION, IT MUST ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ARABS, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, AS WELL AS THE SECURITY NEEDS OF ISRAEL. IN THAT CONNECTION, FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT SADAT MADE IT CLEAR IN OUR MEETING WITH HIM THAT HE WAS NEGOTIATING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE, NOT A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ONLY WITH ISRAEL.

8. THIRDLY, THE LEADERS HAVE IMPRESSED UPON US THAT WHILE THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS SEEN AS THE THORNIER ISSUE, THERE IS A CONSENSUS THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT

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TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, MOST OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM WE MET ARE AGREED THAT AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AT THIS TIME COULD BE DESTABILIZING AND DANGEROUS.

9. FOURTH, THE ISSUES THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU, THAT THE LEADERS HAVE MADE TO US, AND ALL OF THE LEADERS WITH WHOM WE MET BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAS BEEN INADEQUATE AND DISAPPOINTING TO THEM. AS A RESULT, THERE IS A FEELING OF APPREHENSION THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

10. THE ARAB LEADERS, I MIGHT POINT OUT, APPLAUDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS ILLEGAL. FURTHERMORE, THE SETTLEMENTS HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE IN WHICH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

11. MOST GOVERNMENT LEADERS TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT ISRAEL MUST AGREE TO A SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT INCLUDES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BEFORE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN.

12. THERE IS ADEEP FEAR AMONG MOST ARAB LEADERS THAT IF THE SADAT INITIATIVE FAILS, MODERATE FORCES AND REAL PEACE IN THE REGION WILL SUFFER A SERIOUS BLOW AND THAT RADICAL EXREMIST ELEMENTS WILL TAKE OVER.

13. AMONG THE FEW ARAB LEADERS WHO DO NOT SUPPORT THE SADAT INITIATIVE, THERE IS A DTERMINATION TO DESTROY THE EFFORT.

14. WE HAVE HEARD THE VIEWS OF ARAB LEADERS AND WE ARE NOW HERE IN ISRAEL TO GET THE ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE OF THE SITUATION. ON THE BASIS OF THE BALANCED PICTURE WHICH WE GET AFTER TALKING TO BOTH SIDES, THE STUDY MISSION WILL FILE A REPORT WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS
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OF CONGRESS AND TO THE PUBLIC. (END OF REMARKS.)

15. Q: SIR, COULD I ASK A QUESTION PLEASE?

16. A: YES, SIR.

17. Q: DO YOU FEEL AFTER THE TOUR IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE IN A STATE OF CRISIS?

18. A: IT CERTAINLY WAS CONSIDERED BY ALL OF THE LEADERS THAT WE HAVE MET WITH, THAT THEY ARE IN A STATE OF CRISIS.

19. Q: WHAT SHOULD ISRAEL DO IN YOUR OPINION?

20. A: I WOULD PREFER TO DEFER THAT QUESTION UNTIL WE HEAR THE ISRAELI SIDE OF THE ISSUE. WE HAVE STATED MERELY THE POSITION AND THE PLICIES AND THE VIEWS OF THE ARAB LEADERS THAT WE HAVE VISITED, AS WELL AS, OV COURSE, THE SHAH OF IRAN.

21. Q: SIR, DOO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AGENDA WOULD BE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE BY THE AMERICANS?

22. A: I AM IN NO POSITION TO MAKE A STATEMNT ON THE NEW AGENDA BECAUSE WE JUST ARRIVED AND I HAVEN'T HAD AN OPPORTUNITY, NONE OF US HAD AN OPPORTUNITY, TO REVIEW THEM. BUT I WOULD PRESUME THAT IF THEY ARE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PROPOSED, THEY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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23. Q: THANK YOU. (END)

24. CODEL HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE.

NEWLIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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